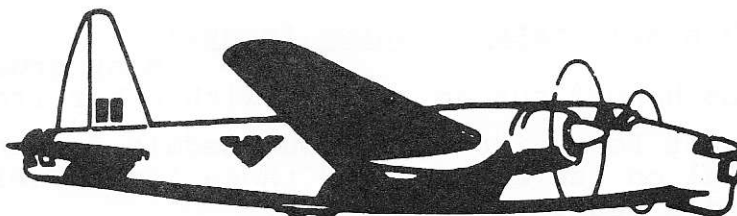


458

SQUADRON NEWS



JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL, G.P.O.Box 5289, SYDNEY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

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4 5 8 S Q U A D R O N C O U N C I L O F F I C E B E A R E R S .

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ALL SET FOR THE 29th.ALL-STATES REUNION.--The Cornstalk Communication from Jock McGowen.

How sad it was to hear of the passing of our dear friend Jim Holliday. Jim did so much for 458 over the years, he will be missed indeed. Our deepest sympathy to Peg and the boys of Q.Flight. We are happy to report that Peg is coming to Canberra. We look forward to her company.

We are all glad that Dorothy Munkman is home, after a five-way by-pass heart operation. Now, Eric has had both hips replaced and Dorothy has her heart fixed up--Canberra, here they come!

Honours. Eric Munkman's Life Membership of the RAAF Association was formalised at the recent Biennial National Council meeting at RAAF Base, Richmond. Don Bitmead and yours truly were awarded Certificates of Merit. The next State Annual RAAFA Assembly will be held at St.George, Sydney, date to be advised.

Now as to Canberra. There is still some room available. Be in it, but be quick! With wives and the boys coming solo, we will have a grand total of around 120+. The final Dinner looks like being a beauty.

The 29th All-States Reunion (cont.)

Many ordered raffle tickets--these will be handed out on arrival with other items of interest.

Now, don't forget to bring your medals for the Service at the War Memorial on the tuesday, and those ladies able to wear their late husband's medals, please do so.

Airport, Railway and bus terminal pick up is being arranged for those who have given us the arrival details but we can't meet you if we don't know when you are arriving. So, please give us details. Raffle tickets will be available up to Friday night and we will have a couple of extra maps to sell at \$5 each.

We have been lucky to get a few extra rooms, both at Ollims and the Acacia--these rooms are still excellent rooms. I have made arrangements with the Motels to hold the rooms until September 13th: then they take them back for all comers. You must act quickly to get them: I can be contacted on FAX (02) 502 3930 to save time. Don't worry about the functions they'll be OK: the room is the problem. BE IN IT, IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK! That's all about Canberra. See you in the foyer of Ollims on Sunday from lunchtime onwards.

Lunch at the TAFE. We had another great luncheon at the Ryde TAFE College on the 3rd. The food was beyond belief; there were about 24 there. A constant attender is Jack Aitken, one of our older members. Our thanks to Stan Longhurst for the organisation.

Vale. We have heard with regret of the passing of 458er Charlie Piggott. Charlie, a Fitter on 458, was also a noted Boxer. He returned to Sydney after the war. Charlie had a long illness and died this July. Our sympathies to his lady.

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CROWEATERS COMMENTS.

from Ted Creighton.

Pre-Christmas Get-together. Nothing changes! The President would not favour a move to a different venue on a weekday. So, for those of you who delight in packing up your BYO Sunday lunch, buying drinks from the bar inside and eating on the benches strung from one end to the other on the back verandah of the Aviation Institute, the date is November 20 from 12 noon on. Hope it is a good day for you.

Flight Finances. The Flight Treasurer reports a good response to the last issue reminder, targeting blokes slow in fronting up with their Subs. We felt a little humble when we received two very thoughtful and supportive letters from outside the target area, enclosing generous cheques to assist in meeting Newsletter dues. Without giving names, we do say a very sincere thank you to these people.

Personal Pars. who has not been taking their daily dose of Red Ned? President John Carey has had a spell in the RAH and is recovering from a heart attack and Treasurer Bert Ravenscroft had a spell in hospital whilst overseas. Best wishes, blokes, from all the Flight.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY...from Ted Jewell.

It is with a sad heart that I announce the death of my wife Elsie Jewell, who passed away on the 17th June. She died peacefully in her sleep. Will be greatly missed, we were married for 53 years. I wish to thank all members who attended the service at Mandurah.

Ray Turley's wife Marg. has had a severe heart attack and has been in hospital for many months. Ray says she is now able to be out of bed with help. It could be some time before she will be able to go home. All our best wishes.

We had a luncheon at Associate Members Phil and Shirley Hicks home on the first Sunday in July. The weather was not good, with wind and rain, but the 12 who were there all had a great time. Until the weather improves we most likely will go into recess for a while.

Bill and Joan Clues have been over to Queensland to visit son Harry and family. They are now preparing to go to Canberra for the Reunion. Many members will remember Jack Miles who was in transport. He passed away several months ago from a heart attack.

Sandgroppers Say...(concl'd) Bill Clues and Henry Etherton attended the funeral at Bunbury which is about 180 km from Perth. Best wishes to everybody--Ted.Jewell.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Norman Duke.

Reg.Bullen. We are pleased to report that after reading the account in the last News of the card Reg sent to Lock Simpson from Malta, I was able to make contact with him once again and sign him on again to the list of UK members.

Ken Brewin out of the blue another one of the "Golden Oldies" has turned up. It appears that following a chance conversation in the main street of his home town, he made contact with Air Vice Marshal Alan Heggen, Director of Australian War Graves, in the Department of Veterans Affairs, who put him in touch with Peter Alexander and finally to yours truly. Ken was a Flight Mechanic with 458 at Holme at the beginning, and when the Squadron was posted to the M. East, Ken was posted to 269 Squadron in Iceland. I wonder if there are any of you out there who remember Ken from 1941/42?

Ralph Wills. Ralph is the brother of Sgt. Pilot Arthur Reginald Wills, who was shot down while flying as second pilot to W/Cdr. Mulholland on 22nd February 1942 en route to Malta. He is trying to make contact with the then F/O Willis-Richards the rear gunner and Gunnery Leader who was the only survivor and spent the remainder of the war in prison camp in Germany. I have contacted all possible sources over here, without success. If any of you have news of Willis-Richards, please contact Ralph Wills at PO Box 43 Moffat Beach, Caloundra Q., 4551. Yes, 52 years is a long time, but you never know, (ED. The News too would welcome news of Willis-Richards--a great survivor).

Brooklands Wimpy. R. for Robert. Rescued from a watery grave in Loch Ness in September, 1985, the main reconstruction is now complete and the old lady is standing proudly on her wheels with all the main components joined up and in place. The only noticeable missing link is the fabric covering, which will not be fully completed due to the effect of condensation in the confined area of the hangar. All visitors to the UK from OZ should come and have a shufti. You will be amazed.

Vickers Vimy. Two American enthusiasts have reconstructed a full sized flying replica of the Vimy which they are planning to fly over to Australia from the UK in October as a memorial to the record flight from the UK originally made after WWI by Australian pilots of the Flying Corps. Something else to watch out for.

Leon Armstrong For some years Leon has been the chief organiser of the British Pensacola Veterans reunions in the UK and USA. These Veterans comprise former wartime Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Florida. This year they were accorded the rare opportunity, by invitation of another Pensacola veteran, Rear Admiral David Morris, CinC USN, Europe, to pay an official visit to the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier George Washington whilst she was moored in the Solent off Portsmouth Dock during the D Day commemoration ceremonies in June this year. During the three hour visit, the veterans were shown every courtesy and consideration by the crew and were privileged to be the only ex-service group to have the opportunity to visit the largest aircraft carrier afloat, the pride of the US Navy. 100,000 tons--4½ acres of Flight Deck, 6370 crew, and the ability to launch 100 aircraft at 20 seconds intervals. (Truly mind-boggling, ND). Kindest regards, Norm.

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Q FLIGHT NEWS

FROM Jack Lewis.

The Passing of James Edward Holliday, OAM, BA.

It saddens me to write of the passing of Jim Holliday. He died after a long and painful illness on the 30th July. He was cremated on 3rd August. Jim was Q.Flight's inaugural Flight Secretary serving for 40+ years.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Jim was honoured by the Federal Government with the Order of Australia after long meritorious service to 458 Squadron Association, the Air Force Prisoners of War Association and other bodies. He was a Life Member of the 458 Squadron Association. He was a good man and sadly missed.

Those attending his funeral service, with wives, included Eric Kelly, Bert Garland, Jim McKay, Bernie McLoughlin, Ron Russell, Peter Bailie, Sel Foote, Cec Bull, Jack Lewis and Sel Williams. Other representatives came from other organisations, including the RAAFA and RSL.

Q.Flight Winter Reunion. Our first get-together since Anzac Day was held at the home of Ron and Joan Russell, Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast on 31st July. It was a lovely sunny typical Queensland winter day. Drinks and luncheon were enjoyed beside the pool and in the garden of the Russells' home, plenty of chin-wgging and some amber fluid, good company, etc., made the day. Those attending were: Ron and Joan Russell, Bert and Isla Garland, Eric and Kath Kelly, Peg Cuthbertson, Chester Jones, Tony and Moira Stone, Sel and Joan Foote, Jack and Kitty Baxter, Jack and Evelyn Lewis, Sel and Bobby Williams, Don Brandon and friend, Cyril and Hetty Murray, Ron and Olive Rigby.

Ron and Joan have been having a great winter; first a Pacific cruise, then a New Zealand cruise, and later in September will be a trip to Hervey Bay whale watching with their friends the Rigbys.

Have not had any news from the North or the West, so expect all is well. No news is good news, I hope.

All the best and Good Health. Jack Lewis.

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CANNUCK CAUCUS.

from Jim Donaldson.

I received a letter from our friend Mickey Reid that will, I am sure, bring back happy memories of the past, tinged with regrets that we were unable to carry on the warm and friendly relationship that we had made before. It was as follows:

Jim, do you remember our crew's WAGs? George Unitt and Bob Boulton? We "lost" Bob back in Aussie post-war-too fast-moving and successful in various enterprises for our Aussie coppers to pin-point. He was the only one I failed to visit when down-under in 1990. George and his wife Grace finally caught up with him last year at a Malta Medal Investiture and we all shared in the joy of being reunited. George's several visits all reported in his many letters; also, Bob and I wrote our life stories to one another in his last year of life, photos, etc. Bob despite poor health drove from their home near Sydney to visit with George at Bateman's Bay and our Navigator, Ron Eggers in Victoria, a real gutsy guy. He had reserved a room in their home for Marge and I for the forth-coming All States Reunion. But it was not to be. Sad to lose old buddies like George Powell and Bob. Thankfully, we have our remembrances. As ever, Mick.

I believe that Mick's letter expresses it for all of us. God Bless.
Jim.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Rupert Pearce.

No 1 A.D., Laverton.

No 1 Aircraft Depot Closure functions will be held on 25th and 26th November including a Parade and Ball on the 25th and Open Day on Saturday 26th. Contact F/Lt. Lesley Hartwig, 1 A.D. RAAF Base, Williams 3027 (Tel. 03 368 2230) or myself. By 1st October, please.

Monthly luncheons at Sth. Yarra.

The Victorian Flight is an affiliated member of the RAAF Association at 4, Cromwell Road, Sth. Yarra. There is to be a series of Monthly Luncheons. Cost per meal approx. \$16. Scheduled, with appropriate speakers for the 1st Monday each month at 12, bar service from 1130. Bookings invited.

Can you help? Refer May Newsletter.

the information given by the Editor was sent to Mr. Ian Cox, who was grateful

Victorian Views (cont.) for that. He told me a photo has been found, and other Furey crew members were P/O Goldman from Australia, and Sgts. Duffield Rowlands and Pepper, all RAF.

Passing of Jack Guthrie. Jack who was a school teacher in post-war life, had been recently bed-ridden, and living with his daughter at Kangaroo ground. For many years he maintained membership of the 458 branch of the RAAF Association. He died earlier this year. Our sympathies.

Sick List. John Morris is presently in hospital. We send him our best wishes. Gordon Nash wrote to say he could not attend functions because of his health---but we always see him at the Anzac March. Dave Firth wrote that he does not expect to go to Canberra; he is troubled with cataracts in both eyes. He may have surgery in September. Mavis Singe had a successful cataract operation recently. June Dean had an unexpected visit to hospital and is now home. Ted Love is presently in Queensland following a spell in hospital in June.

A.T.C. Parade. Mick and Mavis Singe, Bill Hurford and Neil Dean were invited to the final parade of No2. Flight, A.T.C., Preston in their H.Q. at Raglan Street Drill Hall. They are to be relocated at Watsonia. Their C.O., W/Cdr. John McCrystal was a cadet under Bill Hurford many years ago. He said Ernie Laming will be always remembered for his long association with the Flight. He presented Mick with a book "Fifty Years of the A.T.C.". Neil Dean was a member of the A.T.C. at Shepparton before enlisting with the RAAF, and knew some of the cadets mentioned in the book.

Social Events. We are arranging for a luncheon to be held at RAAF Logistics Command Officers Mess, 25/27 Coventry St., South Melbourne on Friday September 9th at 12 noon. Reservations are necessary, those intending to come are asked to contact me on (02) 878 2932 no later than September 2nd.

Also, the usual Cup Day BBQ will be held at the home of Jack and Dot Fleming, 25 Manning Street, St. Leonards. All welcome.

Congratulations. To the latest Grandmother, Christine Smith --and a welcome to Samuel Hamish Glen Smith, born 4th. August.

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KIWI CALL from Kevin George.

No news to report from N.Z. But you may be interested in some facts I recently came across about the U Boat Campaign in the Mediterranean. I quote: Hitler insisted in sending a total of 62 U.Boats into the Mediterranean where they found it just possible to creep in undetected but, because of Allied Air dominance over the Gibraltar Straits and the flow of water eastwards, almost impossible to get out against the current. Once there, they were, as Doenitz said "in a mouse trap". They succeeded in sinking 795 ships, including the Ark Royal, the battleship Barham and the cruiser Galatea, which was no mean achievement, but in the face of strong countermeasures all 62 were destroyed.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to the Editor.

From George Unitt, 5. Penguin Place, Bateman's Bay, NSW, 2536.

I attended the funeral of Bob Boulton along with fellow members of 458. The family were most grateful to have some of Bob's service comrades in attendance. Bob was reticent about his service career and it came as a shock to his family to learn something of his wartime experience. He was in Mick Reid's crew and finished his first tour at Protville--returned to the U.K. and then did two more tours on 156 Squadron. I met him not long after the War once and then not until the Malta ceremony. Grace heard his name and followed up. Bob was a most successful business man. He had pulmonary fibrosis which has no known cause or cure. He was a most modest person.....shall see you in Canberra. George.

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From Peg.Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Queensland .

Dear Peter, Would you please thank your Council members for the beautiful flowers. My family and I are very proud that so many people wished to remember Jim. 458 activities were a very happy part of his life and he considered everyone a close friend. Even though his health was failing he only spent four days in hospital, so we had his cheerful and alert company to the end of his life.

once again thanks to everyone yours sincerely, Peg.Holliday.

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From Mr.Glen Forgan, 2, Saratoga Drive, Novar Gardens, 5040, S.A.

Dear Sir,I am a nephew of the late Flt.Sgt William Wallace FORGAN a member of 458 Squadron. He was k.i.a on 8th January 1942 and is now buried in Cherbourg, France. I visited his grave during the D.Day celebrations this June. The Australian War Graves Commission advised "The British airmen buried here include a number killed "bombing tyhe great German airfield at Malpertus...their remains were "transferred from Malpertus to Cherbourg."

I have my uncle's Log Book, medals and other memorabilia but the final entry makes no reference to the target on that night. As I am writing a family history and in the interest of accuracy, can any of your members confirm that that last target was indeed the German airfield at Melpertus? And is it known if his aircraft was brought down by A.A.fire or night-fighter, etc.

Thanking you in anticipation, Glen Forgan.

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A GREAT YEAR OF COMMEMORATION COMING UP FOR WWII AIRMEN.

The coming year will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of WW II.

The Commonwealth Government, through the Department of Veterans Affairs has already launched "AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS"-the plan for the year. It will include a series of celebrations in every part of Australia. There will be high points around VE and VP Days. School children and the media will be targeted.

This is important not only for reasons of appreciating the deeds of WW II servicemen in historic terms but in making a mark on younger generations and immigrants. The RAAF Association and RSL will organise events but it seems to the News that 458 Flights, too, should have special events during the year. Not only for us who served--we remember anyway--but for our children and grand-children. Therefore the time of functions should be such as to enable them to come--not during working hours.

Squadron Conference will no doubt discuss this in Canberra.

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AUSTRALIAN VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Following what can be seen as a considerable escape from adverse legislation some changes have nevertheless been made. To prevent what were considered maverick medical opinions establishing a "reasonable hypothesis" for future claims, a Repatriation Medical Authority has been set up to prepare "Statements of Principle". The Senate created an appeal system to Medical Specialists. As a Veterans representative, Peter Alexander has recently had discussions with the 5 professors of the R.M.A. It seems possible that they will take a helpful attitude in some cases--particularly affecting "smoking induced" cases. More on this in a future issue (if we have space!).

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Late News. Sorry to report the passing of Fred Nieman after a long illness. Fred was a fitter with the Squadron at HOSM. Fred and Pip migrated to NZ some years ago to be near their daughter. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Pip & family.